

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10135 141503Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 ACDA-07 NSC-05  
SP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
USIA-06 PRS-01 H-01 L-03 AF-10 NEA-10 /098 W  
-----052534 142001Z /70  
R 141332Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9829  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10135

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR WARNKE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, UR, US, XO  
SUBJECT: SOVIET-U.S. INDIAN OCEAN TALKS: PRESS POLICY AND  
TIMING FOR ROUND TWO

REF: (A) STATE 159688, (B) MOSCOW 10089, (C) STATE 161501

SUMMARY: MENDELEVICH CLAIMED TASS JULY 1 INDIAN OCEAN  
COMMENTS DO NOT CONTRAVENE AGREEMENT ON PRESS COMMENTARY.  
HE SAID SOVIETS PREFER EARLY OCTOBER DATE FOR NEXT ROUND  
OF TALKS EITHER IN MOSCOW OR WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER DISCUSSING DRAFT TEXTS FOR USE WITH UN AD HOC  
COMMITTEE (AS REPORTED REF B), CONVERSATION BETWEEN POL  
COUNS AND EMBOFF WITH MENDELEVICH AND PALENYKH JULY 13  
TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF THE JULY 1 TASS COMMENTARY (REF A).  
MENDELEVICH SAID HE WAS COMPLETELY FAMILIAR WITH THE TASS  
COMMENTS BUT BELIEVED THAT UPI HAD NOT PUBLISHED THESE  
COMMENTS COMPLETELY AND MAY HAVE GIVEN U.S. READERS AN  
INACCURATE IMPRESSION. EMBOFFS ASSURED MENDELEVICH THAT  
WASHINGTON WAS IN POSSESSION OF A COMPLETE TEXT AND  
THAT WARNKE'S COMMENTS WERE MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE  
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COMPLETE TASS TEXT.

2. MENDELEVICH ASKED THAT WE CONVEY TO WASHINGTON THAT  
THE SOVIET SIDE WISHES TO CONFIRM THE AGREEMENT  
REACHED DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF INDIAN OCEAN TALKS  
NOT TO INFORM THE PRESS OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS.  
HE NOTED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO THE

MFA PRESS DIVISION TO THIS EFFECT AND THAT IN HIS  
OPINION THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE BEING "STRICTLY FOLLOWED."  
HOWEVER, MENDELEVICH ARGUED THAT THE AGREEMENT REACHED  
DID NOT EXCLUDE ALL PRESS COMMENT WHICH MIGHT DISCUSS  
THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. THE  
EXCLUSION, HE SAID, ONLY APPLIES TO DISCLOSURE OF THE  
SUBSTANCE OF THE POSITIONS TAKEN IN THE TALKS. IN HIS  
OPINION THE TASS COMMENTARY DID NOT, THEREFORE, VIOLATE  
U.S. AGREEMENT SINCE IT DID NOT DISCLOSE ANY OF THE  
SUBSTANCE OF THE BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS. IN CLOSING  
ON THIS POINT HE REMARKED THAT HE "DID NOT EXCLUDE"  
THE POSSIBILITY OF MORE COMMENTARY IN THE SOVIET PRESS ON  
INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES.

3. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF THE NEXT ROUND,  
MENDELEVICH SAID THE SOVIETS CAN AGREE TO EITHER WASHINGTON  
OR MOSCOW AND THAT THE LOCATION IS "YOUR CHOICE." AS  
TO THE TIMING HE SAID THE SOVIETS, FOR "ADMINISTRATIVE  
REASONS," WOULD PREFER TO MEET IN THE BEGINNING OF  
OCTOBER RATHER THAN IN LATE SEPTEMBER AS WAS PREVIOUSLY  
SUGGESTED. HOWEVER, IF THIS CREATES ANY PROBLEMS ON  
THE U.S. SIDE, PARTICULARLY IF U.S. BELIEVES THERE IS  
SOME "POLITICAL MOTIVATION" BEHIND THE PREFERENCE FOR  
OCTOBER, (AND THERE IS NOT, HE ADDED) SOVIETS WILL BE ABLE TO MEET  
IN LATE SEPTEMBER. HE ASKED THAT WE CONVEY THESE THOUGHTS TO  
WASHINGTON AND INVITED A RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT  
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ADMINISTRATIVE PLANNING COULD BEGIN ON THE SOVIET  
SIDE.

4. POL COUNS ALSO GAVE MENDELEVICH TEXT OF WHITE  
HOUSE STATEMENT AS INSTRUCTED IN REF C. MENDELEVICH  
READ IT WITH THE COMMENT THAT HE HAD ALREADY SEEN THE  
TASS VERSION BUT THAT HE APPRECIATED BEING GIVEN  
THE OFFICIAL TEXT.  
TOON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 159688, 77 MOSCOW 10089, 77 STATE 161501  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SOVIET-U.S. INDIAN OCEAN TALKS: PRESS POLICY AND TIMING FOR ROUND TWO  
**TAGS:** PARM, UR, US, XO  
**To:** STATE GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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